

## VSEC Meeting Minutes

April 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022

### Proposed By-Laws Changes

- A. The meeting was called to order at 9:06 PM by Chairman Gene Harrison. VSEC Members present were Chairman Gene Harrison, Vice Chairman John Bowling, Secretary-Treasurer Ray Sira, Member at Large Mike Rusin, Website Coordinator Gary Bush, Vertical Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron, Education Coordinator Hazel Barton and By-Laws Committee Chairman Bill Boehle. Absent were Member at Large Rachel Saker, Vertical Workshop Coordinator Kurt Waldron and Contest Coordinator Bill Cuddington.
- B. **Chairman** – Gene Harrison: The purpose of this meeting is to discuss and vote on proposed changes to the Vertical Sections By-Laws concerning the Code of Conduct.
- C. **By-Laws Chairman Bill Boehle** – Bill presented the proposed change to the By-Laws. Proposed changes were to section 6(B)(i) the sentence “No member of the SECTION shall engage in any activity which is detrimental to speleology, conservation, safety, or the best interests of the NSS.” was added. Section 6(B)(ii)(a) was added “The VERTICAL SECTION subscribes to the principles enumerated in the NSS Code of Conduct (Act 28-957, or as amended). All NSS members are expected to show respect, kindness, and courtesy to each other in all interactions. The VERTICAL SECTION adopts the procedures outlined in the NSS Code of Conduct and will coordinate any investigations into reported violations of the Code of Conduct with the NSS President and General Counsel, as appropriate.” And section 6(B)(ii)(b) was added “The VERTICAL SECTION will utilize the reporting procedures and reporting form described in the NSS Code of Conduct. The CHAIRMAN (or ranking EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE member if any EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE members are recused) will appoint a FULL REGULAR MEMBER to make an investigation of the alleged violation and report their findings to the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for resolution and/or further action. If the complainant, respondent, or witnesses are part of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, they will recuse themselves from handling the incident.”

It was proposed that section 6(B)(ii)(b) be changed to “The VERTICAL SECTION will utilize section-specific reporting procedures and reporting forms equivalent to those described in the NSS Code of Conduct. The CHAIRMAN (or ranking EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE member if any EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE members are recused) will appoint a FULL REGULAR MEMBER to make an investigation of the alleged violation and report their findings to the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE for resolution and/or further action. If the complainant, respondent, or witnesses are part of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, these persons will recuse themselves from handling the incident.”

It was proposed that we add a form to the website for reporting an incident.

Bill said Jay Clark had also suggested a couple of other minor changes. Gene asked that we bring those up at the next VSEC meeting in May.

Gary Bush moved that we accept the proposed changes and amendments to section 6(B). John Bowling seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- D. Gary asked if we have been keeping our incorporation papers with the state of North Carolina up to date. Ray will contact Bill Bussey to make sure. Ray said the IRS filings are up to date.
- E. **Next Meeting** – The next meeting will be May 25<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.